Administration Report of the Agricultural Department.

READ—

Administration Report of the Agricultural Department for the year 1923-24 received with letter No. Per. 27, dated 8th September 1924, from the Director of Agriculture in Mysore.

ORDER No. I. C. 4243-4303—A. & E. 116-24-6, DATED 23RD DECEMBER 1924.

Recorded.

2. Dr. Coleman who went on leave during the year 1922-23 returned to duty on the 6th December 1923. During his absence Mr. H. V. Krishnayya was in charge of the Department.

3. The success of agriculture in the State is largely dependent on rainfall, which in the year under review was both unseasonal and inadequate. The south-west monsoon current was very strong and there was heavy rainfall on the ghats, leading to high floods in all the rivers. Considerable damage was done to property and standing crops. In the later stages, the monsoon current became weak and rain failed when it was wanted, with the result that the yield of both dry and wet crops was very poor. The north-east monsoon on which the eastern parts of the State depend for their water-supply, was a total failure. There was in consequence shortage of water and fodder. By about November 1923, conditions in parts of Kolar, Bangalore and Tumkur assumed a serious aspect and an organised system of relief had to be adopted to help the raiyats to tide over the bad season. The Officers of the Agricutural Department took an important part in the relief measures that were adopted and they were on that account unable to attend to much of their routine work. The organization of fodder supply, the development of well-irrigation and the encouragement of the growth of food and fodder crops had to be undertaken by the Agricultural Department.

4. *Scientific Sections-Chemical Section.*—Manurial experiments on ragi, paddy and arecanut were continued on the field scale, the results showing that an increase of 50 per cent in the yield of ragi and arecanut was possible by the use of proper manure. The investigation of the spike disease of sandal was pursued and it was found that the disease did not affect the quality of the oil.

5. *Mycological Section.*—Two thousand seven hundred acres of areca gardens were sprayed as against 1,200 acres during the previous year and 460 sprayers together with 20 tons of chemicals were sold to the public. The Director reports that at the present rate of progress the whole affected area will be covered in about five years.

6. *Entomological Section.*—Combative measures against the *Kamblihula* pest were carried out in 35 villages in the Kolar District with the result that damage to crops in that area was considerably minimised.

7. *Botanical Section.*—Over three hundred ragi selections were tested during the year. Of the varieties tested during the last three years, eighteen have given, on the average, higher yields than the local *Hullubele,* up to 23 per cent. Experiments have shown that the strain known as H. 22 can withstand droughty conditions very well and give a higher yield of both grain and straw. A few other strains have shown themselves as higher yielders, but they have not as yet been widely distributed. Similar work was carried on in respect of cotton breeding and certain strains superior to *Dodhatti* are reported to have been evolved.

8. *Agricultural Engineering Section.*—The "Mysore Plough" designed by the department was manufactured in England and distributed throughout the State. It is reported that the plough was much appreciated both in and outside the State.

9. *Central Implement Depot.*—In spite of the adverse seasonal conditions, during the year, the Depot did fairly good business. The value of implements sold during the year, the collections made and the arrears outstanding on the 30th June 1924 were Rs. 47,666-5-6, Rs. 49,654-10-7 and Rs. 26,557-15-9 respectively against Rs. 51,177-0-5, Rs. 61,983-6-7 and Rs. 34,461-5-4 in the year 1922-23.

10. *Well Boring.*—The question of well irrigation received a considerable amount of attention during the year. As far back as 1892, Government recognizing the importance of well irrigation in Mysore where the success of cultivation depends on the caprices of the monsoons, adopted a policy of encouraging the construction of

wells. Large sums of money were given out as loans, and some measure of technical aid was also provided. The policy was not however continuously pursued. During the year under report the question was again taken up. The nucleus of a well boring staff was got together and the operator was at work from January to the end of the year in the Goribidnur and Chikballapur Taluks. He put down 30 bore holes and assisted in the construction or improvement of 35 wells. Government have since sanctioned the proposals of the Director of Agriculture for the organization of a well boring section on a large scale at a cost of Rs. 25,000 for 1924-25.

11. *Experimental Farms.*—The abnormal conditions seriously affected the work on all the Farms. The Farms at Hebbal and Babbur suffered from inadequate water-supply. Marthur Farm experienced a period of drought following on heavy floods. Nagenahalli Farm suffered from the breakdown of irrigation. The most important work done at the Hebbal Farm was the testing of the ragi varieties supplied by the Botanical Section. A small mulberry plantation was started on the Babbur Farm to ascertain the possibilities of sericulture in this area. This Farm distributed a large supply of cotton seed. The yield from arecanut in the Marthur Farm in spite of the adverse seasonal conditions was the highest obtained. The selection M. M. ragi gave considerably higher yield than the local mixtures usually grown. Two new varieties of paddy obtained from the Coimbatore Paddy Breeding Station gave quite a good yield at the Nagenahalli Farm. Considerable quantities of paddy and Sugar-cane seeds were distributed from this Farm.

12. *General Demonstration Work.*—Regular demonstration work could not be done in the Taluks affected by the drought. The demonstrations done in other portions of the State related as usual to improved implements, trial and spread of new varieties of crops and the introduction of commercial and other manures and of better methods of cultivation of individual crops.

The number of Co-operative Credit Societies engaged in one form or another of agricultural work rose to 90 during the year. It is satisfactory to note that Co-operative Societies are taking an important part in the distribution of seeds and implements. Government hope that this arrangement will spread and that before long it will be possible to hand over the work to Co-operative Societies so that the Agricultural Department may devote its attention entirely to investigation and demonstration.

13. *Measures adopted for relieving fodder distress.*—The scarcity of fodder began to be felt early in August 1923. Government then ordered that the Agricultural Department should open fodder depots in the affected areas. Through the medium of these depots, 120 tons of ragi straw and hay, $1\frac{1}{2}$ tons of rice bran, $3\frac{3}{4}$ tons of groundnut cakes, besides a large quantity of jola seeds were distributed. The situation became worse with the total failure of the north-east monsoon and in view of the unprecedented situation which arose of having to wait till the mungar rains to grow any fodder crops, Government sanctioned an organized programme of fodder supply. The main features of this organization were (1) the movement into affected areas, of paddy straw purchased in the channel tracts, and of hay cut in the malnad by the Forest Department, (2) the movement of cattle from the affected tracts to the grazing areas in the malnad; and (3) demonstration of the use of prickly pear as subsidiary fodder. In view of the difficulty to transport large quantities of fodder, owing to the limited transport facilities, it was decided that as far as possible cattle from the affected areas should be moved to the malnad forests where a plentiful supply of hay was available. To facilitate and encourage this movement, marching camps were organised in order to provide suitable halting places for the cattle enroute and a sufficient quantity of hay was stacked there. The transport of fodder was limited to areas which were too distant from the malnad for the cattle to be moved. In spite of the strenuous efforts made with the co-operation of the Revenue Department, only 400 head of cattle were moved and this was due to the rapid advance of summer. Experimental and demonstration work on the use of prickly pear as subsidiary fodder was done in the Kolar and Chitaldrug Districts. Two hundred and seventy cattle were fed in five camps. The demonstration besides proving the large saving in fodder effected by using prickly pear, enabled a number of poor raiyats in Goribidnur and Challakere Taluks to tide over the period of fodder scarcity.

14. *Live-stock Section.*—Notwithstanding the trying seasonal conditions, work on the Rayankere Dairy Farm continued satisfactorily. The average rate of milk production per cow increased by 25 per cent. The breeding of half bred Holstein stock was continued. Unfavourable seasonal conditions however interfered with the operations calculated to improve the draught cattle. The Amrut Mahal Department which was transferred to the control of the Director of Agriculture during the year could not for the above reason, make much progress in connection with the distribution of breeding bulls.

15. *Sheep.*—Six merino rams and six merino ewes were imported during the year. Though the work of the Kolar Sheep Breeders' Association was seriously affected by seasonal conditions, the membership of the Association rose from 72 to 106. In all eleven cross bred lambs were distributed in the districts.

16. *Expenditure.*—The total expenditure of the Agricultural Department proper, during the year was Rs 3,56,534-10-5.

17. *Tours.*—Dr. Coleman and Mr. H. V. Krishnayya were on tour for 55 days and 26 days respectively.

18. *General.*—The Board of Agriculture in India held its Session in January 1924 in Bangalore at the invitation of Government. The proceedings of the Board were graciously opened by His Highness the Maharaja. After the close of the Session the members were taken to some of the important institutions of the Agricultural and Sericultural Departments in and around Bangalore and Mysore.

19. The work of the Department continued to be satisfactory under the control of Dr. Coleman. The organization of the fodder campaign called for a considerable amount of initiative organisation and hard work. Government note with satisfaction that the Director of Agriculture, the Conservator of Forests, and the Deputy Commissioners of Districts acted in a spirit of whole hearted enthusiasm and co-operation and secured thereby the success of a scheme which was as useful as it was difficult and new

K. V. ANANTARAMAN,
Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department.

FINANCIAL SECRETARIAT.

Reversionary Bonus Addition.

READ—

Correspondence ending with letter No. 6203, dated 3rd—5th November 1924, from the Secretary, Mysore State Life Insurance Committee regarding the results of valuation of the Official Insurance Fund by Mr. George King, Actuary, London, for the quinquennium ending 30th June 1923.

ORDER NO. FL. 3451-510—G. F. 54-24-5, DATED 23RD DECEMBER 1924.

The following recommendations of the Actuary which are supported by the Committee are sanctioned :—

(1) A reversionary Bonus addition of one per cent on the sum assured under all the policies existing on 30th June 1923 for each year during which the respective policies have been in force throughout the quinquennium.

(2) One per cent interim Bonus in respect of each policy that becomes a claim subsequent to 30th June 1923.

M. N. KRISHNA RAO,
Financial Secretary to Government.